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In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A personal watercraft comprising:
 - a hull, the hull comprising a transom;
 - a deck disposed on the hull;
 - a straddle seat disposed on the deck;
 - handlebars mounted on the deck forward of the seat for steering the personal watercraft;
 - a first compartment defined between the hull and the deck;
 - a tunnel ~~defined by the hull~~, the tunnel extending forwardly from the transom, the tunnel being defined laterally by the hull, the tunnel having an open bottom,
 - a ride plate mounted to the hull at the bottom of the tunnel;
 - the tunnel and the ride plate defining a second compartment separate from the first compartment;
 - an internal combustion engine supported by the ride plate and disposed in the second compartment and below the seat; and
 - a jet pump operatively connected to the internal combustion engine, supported by the ride plate, and disposed in the second compartment.
2. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein at least one of the hull and the deck defines a top of the tunnel.
3. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is accessible in the watercraft from below.
4. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is accessible in the watercraft from the rear of the watercraft.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the ride plate forms a continuous surface with an underwater portion of the hull.
6. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the second compartment is sealed off from the first compartment.
7. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the ride plate is flexibly mounted to the hull.

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8. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, further comprising one of a battery, engine electronics, and a fuel tank disposed in the first compartment, wherein the one of a battery, engine electronics, and fuel tank is operatively connected to the engine.
9. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, further comprising an airbox disposed in the first compartment, wherein the airbox operatively connects to the engine.
10. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises an engine oil pan mounted to the ride plate.
11. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises an engine oil pan integrally formed with the ride plate.
12. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, further comprising a gearing and a clutch operatively disposed between the engine and the jet pump.
13. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is inclined about its longitudinal axis such that the engine is disposed at an angle with respect to a vertical axis.
14. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine is disposed above the jet pump, wherein the engine includes a crankshaft, wherein the jet pump includes a driveshaft, and wherein the driveshaft and the crankshaft occupy overlapping longitudinal positions on the watercraft.
15. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine includes a crankshaft and the jet pump includes a driveshaft, and wherein the crankshaft and driveshaft are parallel to each other.
16. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises a crankcase that is integrally formed with the ride plate.
17. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the jet pump comprises an intake area that is at least partially integrally formed with the ride plate.
18. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the jet pump comprises an intake area, and the engine comprises a crankcase that is at least partially integrally formed with the intake area.
19. **(Previously Presented)** The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the engine comprises a crankcase, and the jet pump comprises a driveshaft that is supported by the crankcase.
20. **(New)** The personal watercraft of claim 2, wherein the hull defines the top of the tunnel.

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21. (New) The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the tunnel is disposed between the first compartment and the transom.
22. (New) The personal watercraft of claim 1, wherein the tunnel and the first compartment are disposed along the longitudinal axis of the personal watercraft.